



Teela: Tying the U.S. standard in men's biathlon competition.

The Alaska native's performance was hailed as the best effort by an American in 30 years ...

VERMONT Army National Guard soldier **SPC Jeremy Teela** charged to a remarkably strong 14th-place finish and tied the United States' standard in the men's 20-kilometer race at the XIX Winter Olympics' biathlon competition near Heber City, Utah.

The Alaska native's performance in the combination shooting and skiing event was hailed as the best effort by an American in 30 years for the modern individual Olympic competition. Two other Americans finished 14th in the 20-kilometer race in 1960 and 1972, before biathletes began using newer skiing styles and using .22-caliber rifles.

Teela missed just two of 20 targets and skied strongly enough to cover the 12.4-mile distance in 53 minutes, 56.5 seconds, during his first Olympic race. He finished 2:53.2 behind gold medallist Ole Einar Bjoerndalen of Norway after missing one target in each of the first prone and standing shooting stages. He hit all 10 of his final targets.

"My skis were so fast — stupid fast," said the 25-year-old Teela. "The wax guys did such a great job that I could not have asked for better. As for my shooting,

what can I say? I shot 18, and, of course, I always want better. But it was great.

"I didn't feel so great before the race today," added Teela, a member of the U.S. Army's World Class Athlete Program who is on active-duty status while participating in that program. "But I'm sure glad that I raced."

"I still can't believe this," said U.S. coach Algis Salna, who won a gold medal in the biathlon relay race for the Soviet Union in 1984. "Jeremy cleaning the final two stages is incredible."

Vermont Army Guard SGT **Kristina Sabasteanski** finished 55th and Minnesota Army Guard **SPC Kara Salmela** finished 59th in the women's 15-kilometer race, the day's first event.

Sabasteanski, also an Army world-class athlete, missed four targets and finished in 55 minutes, .9 second. Salmela missed eight targets and finished in 57:25.9. — *MSG Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau Public Affairs Office*

RETIRED GEN **Carl Stiner** — the second general to head Special Operations Command and former commander of the 82nd Airborne Division and XVIII Airborne Corps — recently teamed with novelist **Tom Clancy** to write a chapter on the aftermath of Sept. 11 and the war against terrorism for the newly published book, "Shadow Warriors, Inside the Special Forces."

Clancy and Stiner met hundreds of fans at a Feb. 11 book signing at a shopping mall near the Pentagon. Some people waited in line for hours to have their books signed by the authors.

"This book is dedicated to all the great soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines with whom I have been privileged to serve during 35 years of service," said Stiner in the book's prologue. "Among these, an elite brotherhood of warriors deserves the highest possible recognition — our nation's special-operations force, past and present.

"To those who have sacrificed their lives in defense of our freedom, we owe our deepest respect and gratitude. To their families, we offer our deepest sympathy and prayers for their future," he wrote.

"Our main goal in publishing this book was to educate the public about what special forces soldiers do in peacetime and in war, and to let taxpayers know that they're

Stiner (left) and Clancy: Signing the new book.



getting the maximum amount possible out of each dollar spent on the elite forces."

The book traces the transformation of the special forces from the core of outsiders in the 1950s to special forces' rebirth in the late 1980s and into the new century.

"President Kennedy and BG Bill Yarborough saw the need for changes in special operations in the 1960s, a time of new threats from the Soviet Union and from insurgencies. Unfortunately, our organization shrank considerably after Vietnam, mostly because each service ran its own special operations. When money got tight, they cut special ops," Stiner said.

"The special-operations forces did a great job at what they were told to do, but they were too specialized," he said. "In 1986 the Goldwater-Nichols Act and the Cohen-Nunn Amendment transformed special forces forever. The act created U.S. Special Operations Command and centralized all the special-operations forces." — *Army News Service*

LIFE has been more hectic than usual lately for **SSG Martin Lowrey** and his canine partner, Kiko. The military policeman and his 6-year-old, bomb-sniffing German shepherd have been on the go almost constantly since Sept. 11.

On Jan. 24, for example, Lowrey and Kiko, of the Fort Myer, Va., Military Police Company Canine Section, started their day at Fort Meade, Md., wrapping up a week-long temporary assignment. By 10 a.m. they were at Fort Belvoir, Va., about 60 miles to the south, testing their explosive-detection skills at a warehouse training site.

Just before noon, Lowrey got word he had a real mission. And by 6 p.m. he and Kiko had to be in Cincinnati to conduct a bomb sweep in preparation for a visit by Vice President Dick Cheney.

The Fort Myer canine teams support local military bases and routinely go on missions across the country and around the world to help protect top U.S. government officials. Two of Lowrey's nine fellow dog han-



Lowrey and canine partner Kiko: In demand.

dlers were on assignment at the Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The teams "are constantly gone," said **SFC David Reiter**, the company kennel master. "Since Sept. 11, everybody wants dogs. They're a hot commodity," so much so that it's a challenge to schedule mandatory proficiency training, said Reiter, who's worked with military canine units for 15 years.

"When I was a sophomore in high school I decided I wanted to be a police officer in the military," he said.

Since joining the Army he's gone to the World Series with the president and is currently performing missions at Camp David, Md. "I've gone on a White House tour with a Secret Service agent and stayed at five-star hotels.

Movie stars going to these hotels can't bring their pets, but we're allowed to bring our working dogs." — *Linda D. Kozaryn, American Forces Press Service*

SFC Gary A. Ballew didn't think twice about entering a neighbor's burning house to save a 5-year-old girl.

"Anybody else would have done the same thing," Ballew said modestly.

In fact, Ballew, who was stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C., at the time, risked his own life as he low-crawled into the building to rescue the trapped girl, according to the Lake Rim, N.C., fire chief. He saved the girl's life, the chief said, by administering first aid until rescue personnel arrived on the scene.

LTG Dan K. McNeill, commander of XVIII Airborne Corps, presented Ballew with the Soldier's Medal, the highest award a soldier can receive for non-combat-related heroism.

Ballew is assigned to First U.S. Army as an observer-controller and trainer with the Fort Stewart, Ga.,-based 4th Brigade, 87th Division. — *First U.S. Army PAO*

"Since Sept. 11, everybody wants dogs. They're a hot commodity."



Ballew (right): Lifesaver.



CPT Mike Sennett